Capsule Summary

Inventory No. F-1-100

J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farm

5649 Mountville Rd.

Adamstown

Frederick County, Maryland

Ca. 1864 (house, barn, wagon shed), ca. 1920 (workshop)

Access: Private

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead, now known as the Chuck Wade Sod Farm, is a good representative collection of buildings showing the development of a grain farm through the latter half of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Only two of the seven buildings standing were constructed during the 1980s when the farm was converted to sod production. Interior changes to the house and lower level of the barn have impacted the buildings' integrity architecturally, however the well-maintained condition of all of the buildings is relatively unusual in the changing agricultural landscape of Frederick County. All of the buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the farm tract for housing. The farmstead is situated on a plain of nearly level land just to the southwest of Adamstown, within a triangle formed by the B&O Railroad, Mountville Road and Doubs Road. The surrounding farmland is devoted to production of sod, so the landscape is open, well-tended grassland. The house faces north and the barn south.

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farm is a significant example of the development of the Carrollton Manor following its subdivision in the 1820s and 1830s. The 140-acre parcel on which the farmstead stands, originally consisting of 184 acres, was part of Manor Subdivision Lot. No. 10. It served as "arable" acreage until its purchase by John C. Osborn in 1864, when construction of the farmstead buildings began. Osborn's

nephew, Thomas L. Thomas, with whom the farm was most closely associated, reportedly improved the farm throughout his forty-year occupation. Later owners have added only a few buildings. All of the farm buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the land for housing.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of I	Property	(indicate preferre	ed nam	ne)					
historic	J.C. Osborn-T.L. Tho	omas Farm (preferr	ed)						
other	Chuck Wade Sod Far	m							
2. Location									
street and number	5649 Mountville Rd.							not for pub	lication
city, town	Adamstown		,				X	vicinity	
county	Frederick								
3. Owner of	Property	(gives names an	d mail	ing address	ses of a	ll owners)			
name	Chuck Wade Landsc	aping, Inc.							
street and number	5649 Mountville Rd.	, P.O. Box 6				Teleph	one	301-662-0	736
city, town	Adamstown		0	state M	D	zip coo	le	21710	
4. Location	of Legal Des	cription							
courthouse, registry	of deeds, etc. Frede	erick County Court	house		liber	1156	Folio	504	
city, town	Frederick	tax map	103	tax parcel	35		tax ID) number	
Contri Contri Deterr Deterr	buting Resource in Natibuting Resource in Location of Albuting Resource in Location of Eligible for the National Ineligible for the ded by HABS/HAER ic Structure Report or Inc.	tional Register Dist cal Historic District lational Register/M National Register/I	rict aryland Maryla	100 miles	r				
6. Classifica	ation			- V					
district	private combot description of the combot des	ont Function griculture commerce/trade efense comestic ducation unerary overnment ealth care industry		landscape recreation religion social transporta work in pr unknown vacant/no other:	n/culture ation rogress	5 Number	ting of Cor	Noncontrib 2 2 ntributing R ed in the Inv	buildings sites structures objects Total

7. Desc	ription		Inventory No.	F-1-100
Condition				
	excellent	Deteriorated		
X	good	Ruins		
	fair _	Altered		

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead, now known as the Chuck Wade Sod Farm, is a good representative collection of buildings showing the development of a grain farm through the latter half of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Only two of the seven buildings standing were constructed during the 1980s when the farm was converted to sod production. Interior changes to the house and lower level of the barn have impacted the buildings' integrity architecturally, however the well-maintained condition of all of the buildings is relatively unusual in the changing agricultural landscape of Frederick County. All of the buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the farm tract for housing. The farmstead is situated on a plain of nearly level land just to the southwest of Adamstown, within a triangle formed by the B&O Railroad, Mountville Road and Doubs Road. The surrounding farmland is devoted to production of sod, so the landscape is open, well-tended grassland. The house faces north and the barn south.

Description

Situated just southwest of the small town of Adamstown on the south side of Mountville Road, the 140-acre farm tract on which the Osborn-Thomas Farmstead stands consists entirely of the distinctively flat land associated with the former Carrollton Manor of southern Frederick County. The farmland is now used in the production of landscaping sod resulting in an unusually open landscape without the tree or fence-line field delineations more commonly associated with agricultural landscapes in the region.

Approached from Mountville Road on the northeast by a long gravel drive, the building complex is sited in the center of the farm tract, a tight group of seven buildings. The yard is landscaped with flowering plants, several shade trees and a small number of evergreen bushes. The farm buildings are painted a classic barn red while the house and office building are white. A small horse corral of white fence extends from the wagon shed, now used for miniature horse stalls.

The house is a two-story brick gable-end construction on stone foundation. A brick interior chimney rises from each gable end. The roof is covered with standing seam metal sheets and some replacement corrugated metal sheets. A corbelled brick cornice extends across both the south and north elevations. The south elevation is four bays wide, however the fenestration on the first floor has only three openings presenting a window/door/blank wall/window pattern. There is no evidence that a second door was removed from this wall. Although the driveway approach is to this side of the building, it appears that the south elevation is in fact the rear of the house. All windows and the door have wide wood lintels; the door has a three-light transom; the windows are one over one sash replacements. A concrete open porch surface extends across three bays; a steel bulkhead basement entrance extends below the forth (eastern-most) bay. The

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Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

north elevation is four bays with window/window/door/window fenestration on both the first and second floors, indicating that the façade probably originally included a two-story porch although no other evidence remains. All windows and doors have wide wood lintels. The upper story door has a three-light transom. The lower story door has been replaced with modern sliding patio glass doors and framed infill covered with siding. However, the presence of the wood lintel extending beyond the width of the wide opening indicates the possibility that this was a Greek Revival styled three-part entrance with sidelights which would have required the wider opening. This implies that the north elevation, facing toward Adamstown, was the formal front elevation of the house historically. All windows are replacement one over one sash. Both gable ends have a six over six light sash garret window.

On the west gable end is a two-bay, one-story frame kitchen wing. The kitchen's south elevation has a window/door fenestration, shaded by a cantilevered roof extension over an open concrete porch area. There is a brick exterior chimney on the west gable end and a small storage room addition with a window on the north elevation. The entire kitchen wing is covered with asbestos shingle siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets. A window in the west gable end, upper story has been boarded over.

The interior of the house and kitchen is covered with wood paneling and drop ceilings; all fireplaces have been enclosed. Exposed historic double beaded moldings can be found around several doors and windows. Cast iron box locks with ceramic knobs, c.1860s, remain on several interior doors. An enclosed winding stair with vertical board door is located near the center of the south wall in the area of the blank wall on the south elevation (explaining the lack of an opening on the exterior wall). The south elevation door is completely blocked by interior paneling. The second story was not observed.

Immediately west of the kitchen wing of the house is a light timber frame wood shed covered with asbestos shingle siding. The building is constructed using a mixture of hewn and sawn beams. It has a vertical board and batten door with wrought iron hinges and latch. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets.

Several hundred feet to the southwest of the house is the Pennsylvania bank barn. It is constructed on a limestone foundation framed with mortise and tenoned straight sawn beams with massive hewn floor beams, which extend over the cantilevered forebay. The cantilevered forebay is located within the symmetrical barn framing, typical of the standard Pennsylvania barn style of the 19th century. The western forebay end is closed with an extension of the stone foundation wall while the east end is supported with a post. According to the Ensminger barn morphology, this is a transitional form moving from closed to open forebay ends and falls within the middle of the 1790-1890 period. Four steel pole supports along the length of the forebay are a more recent addition. All of the stalls within the lower level of the barn have been removed, leaving a large open space. The beams are now supported with sawn summer beams with heavy square posts. The area does not appear to have been converted to dairy production.

¹ Robert Ensminger, The Pennsylvania Barn, (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), pp. 67-72.

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The somewhat distinctive width of the barn is achieved with symmetrical extensions on both sides of each framing bent (see attached drawing). The original track and pulley system for lifting and transporting hay is still in place along the interior roof ridge. The siding is vertical boards, some with battens. Gable ends are pierced with plain arched louvered vents. On the south elevation above the forebay two plain arched louvered vents are located on either side of two large sliding doors. On the north side of the barn a banked ramp leads to the central sliding doors of the upper threshing floor. The roof is channeled metal sheets.

In the south yard between the house and barn is a sawn light timber framed wagon shed. The building has a central drive-through with a corncrib on each side. It is typical of the combination wagon shed/corncribs constructed throughout the second half of the 19th century. The open central area now houses stalls for miniature horses.

Just off the northwest corner of the wagon shed is a c.1920 cast stone (rock-faced concrete block) workshop. It is a one story gable-front building with large sliding panel doors which enclose the open central bay. The long east and west walls each have a row of five, twelve pane fixed-light windows, which are protected with horizontal iron bars on the exterior. The interior is a large open room with workbenches along the walls. The roof is sheet metal.

Southwest of the barn is a modern metal frame, two-bay truck garage. Directly south of the house, fronting onto the north side of the driveway, is a modern one-story pre-fabricated building used as the office for the Chuck Wade Sod Farm.

8. Signific	cance		Inventory No. F-1-100
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	X agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics health/medicine education industry engineering invention entertainment/ landscape archi recreation law ethnic heritage exploration/ maritime history settlement military	philosophy politics/government religion science social history
Specific dates	c. 1864-1930	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction da	ites c. 1864		
Evaluation for:			
	National Register	Maryland Register	X not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farm is a significant example of the development of the Carrollton Manor following its subdivision in the 1820s and 1830s. The 140-acre parcel on which the farmstead stands, originally consisting of 184 acres, was part of Manor Subdivision Lot. No. 10. It served as "arable" acreage until its purchase by John C. Osborn in 1864, when construction of the farmstead buildings began. Osborn's nephew, Thomas L. Thomas, with whom the farm was most closely associated, reportedly improved the farm throughout his forty-year occupation. Later owners have added only a few buildings. All of the farm buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the land for housing.

Historic Context

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland initially owned much of the land, however many of the settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the mid west overtook local production in the later 19th century. The agricultural economy of the region gradually changed from emphasis on grain production to dairy farming and other alternatives such as canning vegetables, fruits, and animal stock.

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Resource History

The Carroll family was preeminent during Maryland's colonial and early national periods. They held a position of prestige and economic dominance. There were Protestant and Catholic branches of the family, both of which had sons with the name of Charles Carroll in succeeding generations. The Catholic Carrolls were descended from "Charles Carroll, The Settler," who came to Maryland from Ireland in 1688, and who died in 1720. His son was Charles Carroll of Annapolis. The next generation included another Charles Carroll, destined to be owner of Carrollton Manor and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born in Annapolis in 1737, the younger Charles was sent to England for schooling. Upon His return to America in 1765, he was given the 12,000-acre Carrollton Manor in Frederick County by his father to serve as a source of income.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, as he was known to distinguish himself from his father, did not live on his Frederick County plantation, but rather leased the land as a number of "manor farms," collecting the annual rents for income. In 1821, in his 84th year, Charles Carroll of Carrollton began to break-up the Manor, dividing it into large lots of several hundred acres each and conveying them to his children. The February 1821 division, described in Frederick County Land Record J.S. 17, pages 103-106, dated 24 December 1821, included Elizabeth Caton and Louisa Catherine Hervey, both living in Great Britain (Lots One and Two); Catherine and husband Robert Goodloe Harper (Lots Six, Eight, Eleven, and Twelve), and Mary Anne and Robert Patterson (Lot Nine plus 600 acres), all of Baltimore; Emily and John McTavish of Montreal (Lot Five); Mary Sophia and Richard H. Bayard of Philadelphia (Lot Ten); and Elizabeth Chew Carroll (represented by trustees), Harriet Carroll, and Louisa Catherine Carroll (Lots Seven, Three, and Four), all described as daughters of Charles Carroll, Junior.

Mary Sophia (Carroll) and her husband Richard H. Bayard, who received Lot Ten "of the Grand Division of the said Carrollton Manor," apparently subdivided their substantial acreage, eventually selling farm-size (100-200 acres) parcels as well as B & O Railroad right-of-way. In 1853, Daniel Rhoades (Rhodes) purchased a 184-acre tract "of Arable land," part of Carrollton Manor Lot Ten. The parcel adjoined the B & O Railroad and the farm of William H. Hoffman on the northwest, the Trap Road (now Mountville Road) on the northeast, and the farm of David Sprecht on the south (now bordered by Doubs Road). The parcel, in the form of a triangle, included the south end of Adamstown, although not mentioned as such in the deed. Williams

³ Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book E.S. 3, page 79, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

² Ann C. Vandevanter, *Anywhere So Long As There Be Freedom*, (Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1975), pp. 48-49; describes the Manor as having 3,900 acres under cultivation by as many as 63 tenants c.1775 with an annual rent income of 565. She also cite Richard Caton's "A Brief Statement of Facts in the Management of the Late Mr. Carroll of Carrollton's Moneyed Estate," 1832, which stated an income of \$12,000 from the farms of the Manor in 1812 and \$18,000 in 1832.

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Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

and McKinsey, writing in 1910, noted that Adamstown, named for Adam Kohlenberg, was established around 1840 (during the Bayard ownership of the land), and that Daniel Rhodes was one of the early settlers there. The 1858 Bond Map of Frederick County showed the "D. Rhodes" triangular farm adjoining the small village of Adamstown (see attached copy). With his sale of the farm tract in 1864, Rhodes appears to have decided to focus his energy on the Adamstown development. In his deed to John C. Osborn, Daniel reserved a 30-acre parcel from the 184-acre farm adjoining the southeast side of the B & O Railroad and the "road leading from Greenfield Mills to Jefferson."

John C. Osborn (Osborne) owned several other properties in the Buckeystown District, but apparently purchased the subject farmland to build a home farm for his family, which included his orphaned nephew Thomas L. Thomas.⁶ The 1873 Atlas Map of Frederick County showed the location of the Osborn "Res." (residence) on the subject farm (see attached copy). According to Williams' *History of Frederick County*, Thomas L. Thomas took up farming at this location previous to his marriage in 1874 and subsequently "put up a convenient two-story, brick dwelling, a bank barn, and all the necessary buildings." Although this correctly described the farmstead, clearly the buildings were constructed prior to 1874 as evidenced by the 1873 map.

Despite Williams and McKinsey's glowing view in 1910 of the T. L. Thomas farm as "one of the valuable farms of the district," by 1914, owner of record Mary C. Thomas, T. L. Thomas' wife, had defaulted on the farm's mortgage and it was sold through trustees in 1916 to Eugene Sponseller. The tract was in fact a tenant farm by that time, the purchase price of \$118.50 per acre including "the landlord's ½ interest in the crop of wheat now on said farm." Sponseller sold the farm two weeks later to Charles and Mary Joy, who in turn sold it one year later to William and Edith Renn. The Renn family retained the farm until 1980, more than sixty years, when it was sold to Chuck Wade Landscaping, Inc. The landscaping company converted the farm to sod production.

farm.

9 Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book 316, page 218.

⁴ T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey, *History of Frederick County, Maryland*, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, reprint), Vol. 1, p. 321.

⁵ Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book J.W.L.C. 2, page 193. The deed refers to the road in the first description of the whole 184-acre tract as "the road leading from the town of Jefferson to Nowlands [sic] Ferry, commonly called the Trap Road," and in the reserved 30-acre parcel as "the public road from Greenfield Mills to Jefferson," however, both appear to be the same road.

⁶ Williams and McKinsey, p. 1349. Williams noted Thomas' birth in 1848, making him 16 at the time of Osborn's purchase of the

⁷ Ibid.

8 Williams and McKinsey, p. 1349; Frederick Co. Land Records, Deed Book WIP 6, page 673 (Thomas L. Thomas to Mary C. Thomas), and Deed Book HWB 308, page 459 (Thomas trustees to John H. Allnutt); this deed noted the sale of several lots between the years 1893 and 1913 which reduced the actual acreage of the farm to 143 acres.

¹⁰ Frederick Co. Land Records, Deed Book 316, page 277 (Sponseller to Joy), and Deed Book 320, page 451 (Joy to Renn).

¹¹ Frederick Co. Land Records, Deed Book 1110, page 885 (Renn to Wade), Deed Book 1110, page 888 (mortgage), and 1156, page 504 (equity court reconveyance, Renn to Wade).

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Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

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Resource Evaluation

Four farmstead buildings remain from the Osborn/Thomas construction period, including the house, woodshed, wagon shed/corn crib, and barn. Of these the house has had the most dramatic changes made, primarily to the interior wall treatments, windows, and doors. The barn is in remarkably good condition; only the stalls in the lower level have been removed. It appears that the barn was never converted to dairy production. Although Williams and McKinsey, writing in 1910, noted that the farm buildings were constructed by Thomas L. Thomas c. 1874, presence of the residence noted on the 1873 Atlas map and moldings and window treatments on the house indicate the construction date was probably closer to the 1864 purchase of the tract by John C. Osborn.

A cast stone workshop building, probably constructed c.1920, is also considered contributing to the historic development of the farm. This building was probably constructed by the Renn family and is associated with the growing importance of farm machinery through the early 20th century.

Two non-contributing buildings, a truck garage and an office building, were added after the 1980 purchase by the Chuck Wade Landscaping Company.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Carrollton Manor," National Register documentation, Paula S. Reed & Assoc., 1996.

"E.D. Zimmerman 'Manor' Property," #F-1-216, MIHP documentation, Paula S. Reed & Assoc., 1996.

Frederick County Land Records, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

Vandevanter, Ann C. Anywhere So Long As There Be Freedom. Baltimore, MD: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1975.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.

Inventory No. F-1-100

1858, Bond Map of Frederick County, Maryland. Reproduction by Frederick Co. Historical Society, Frederick, MD.

1873, Titus Atlas Map of Frederick County, Maryland. Maryland Room, C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.

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Acreage of surveyed property	139.9 acres			
Acreage of historical setting	Approximately 5 acres			
Quadrangle name	Buckeystown	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000	

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary begins at a point on the farmstead driveway SE of the SE corner of the house, then runs N/NW to a point just beyond the NE corner of the house, then runs SW to a point just beyond the NW corner of the barn, then runs SE to the SW corner of the truck garage, then following the S wall of the truck garage to the beginning point in the driveway.

The boundary includes the farmstead buildings, approximately 5 acres, excluding the remaining 135 acres of farmland now converted to sod production and no longer representative of grain farming (all field delineations have been obliterated).

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, I	Historian
organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.	date 8/12/02
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street	telephone 301-739-2070
city or town Hagerstown	state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Mar

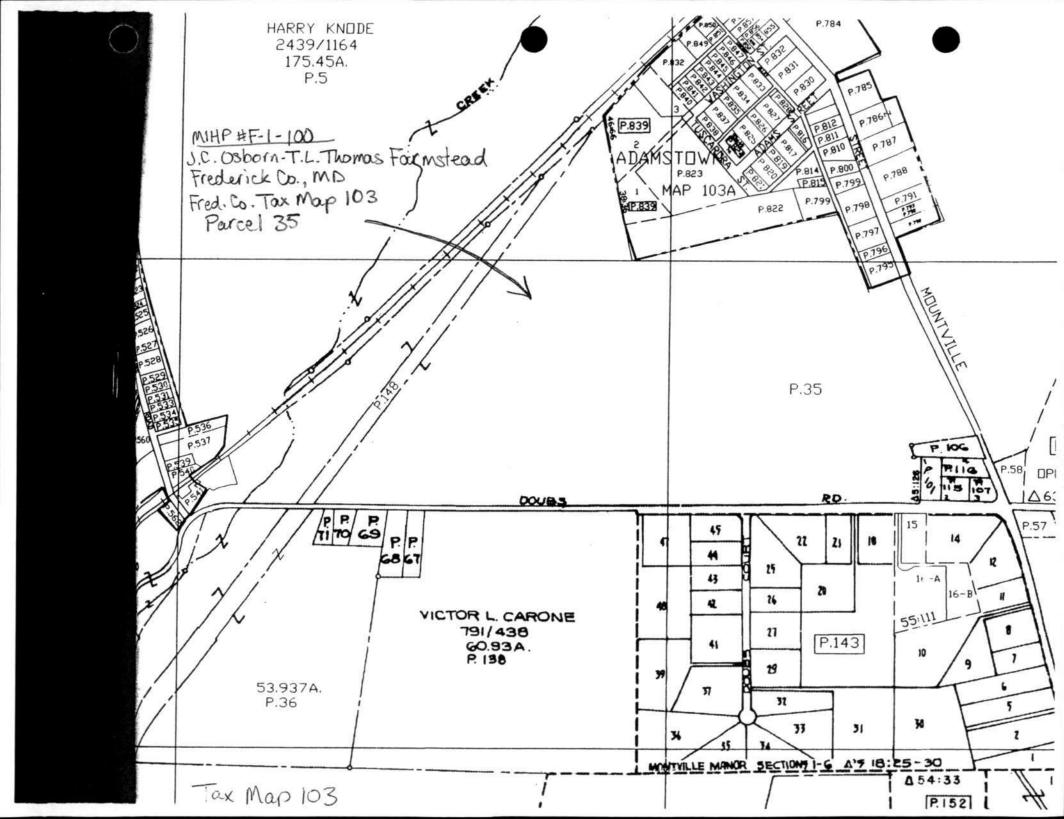
Maryland Historical Trust

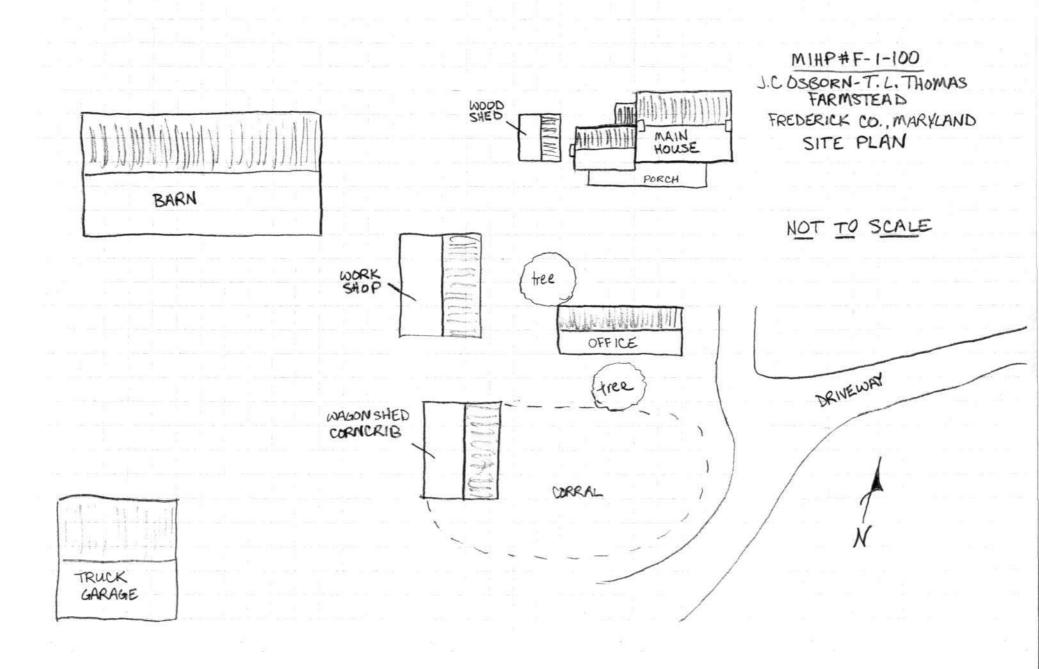
DHCD/DHCP

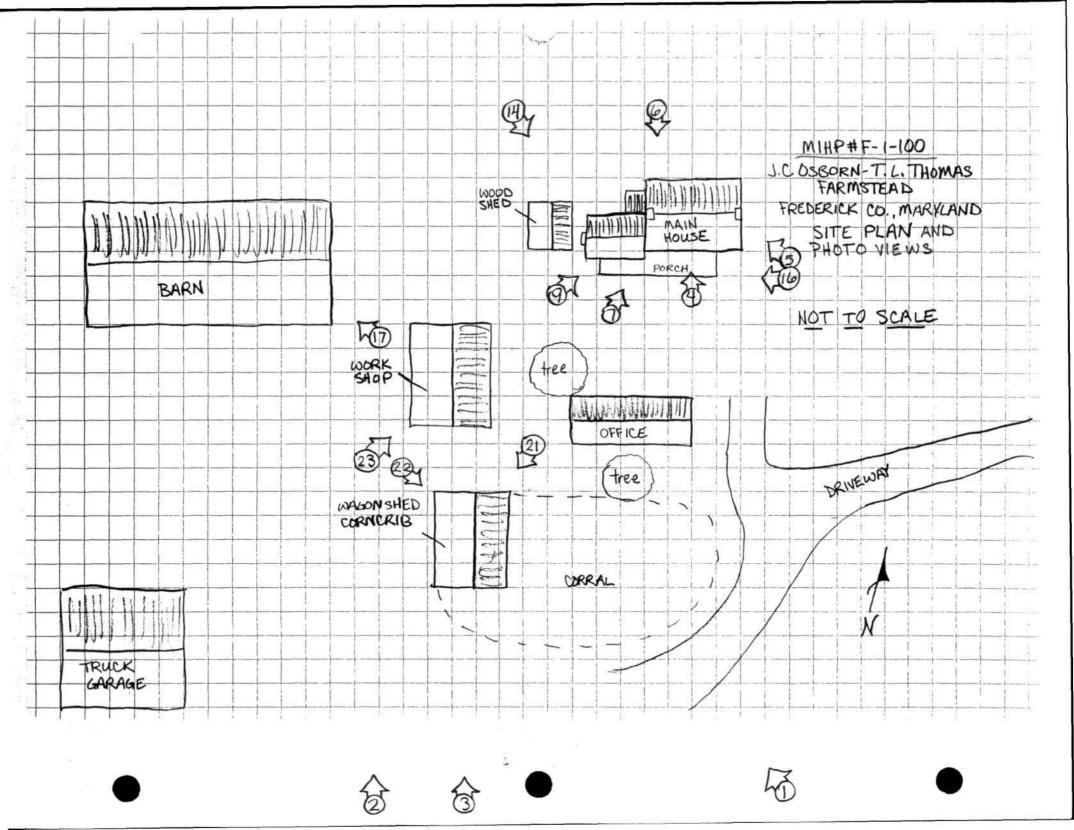
100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

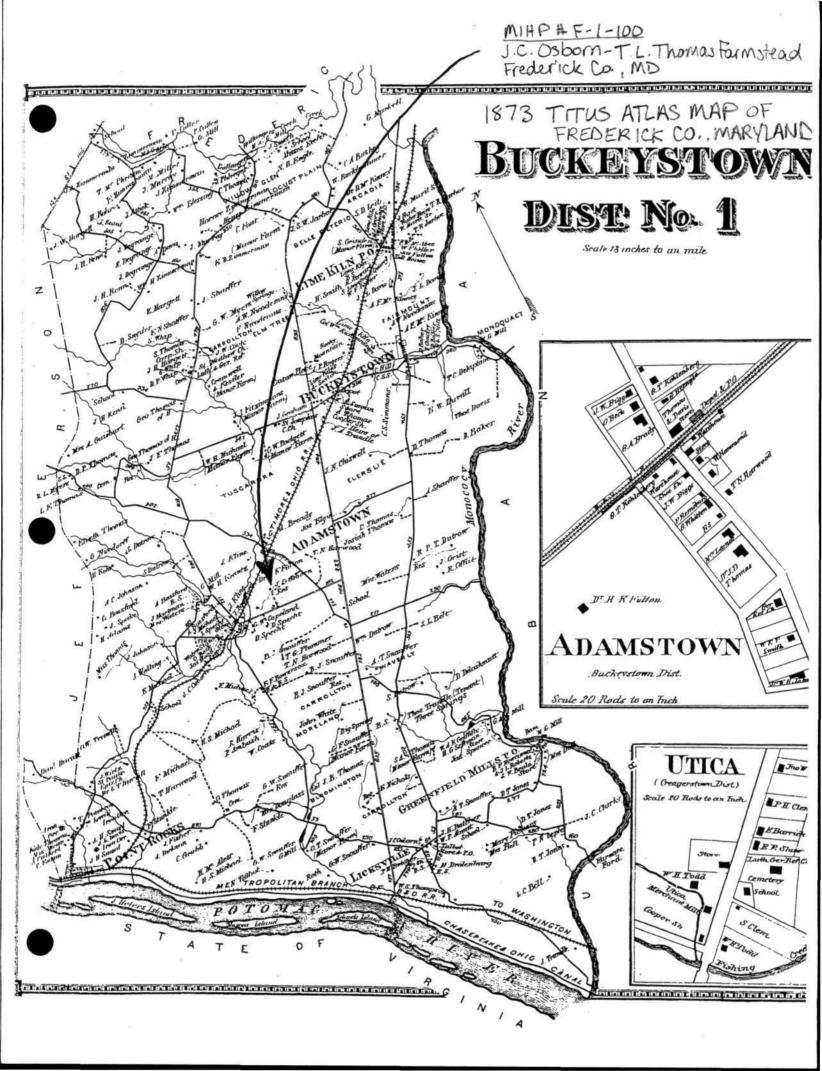
410-514-7600

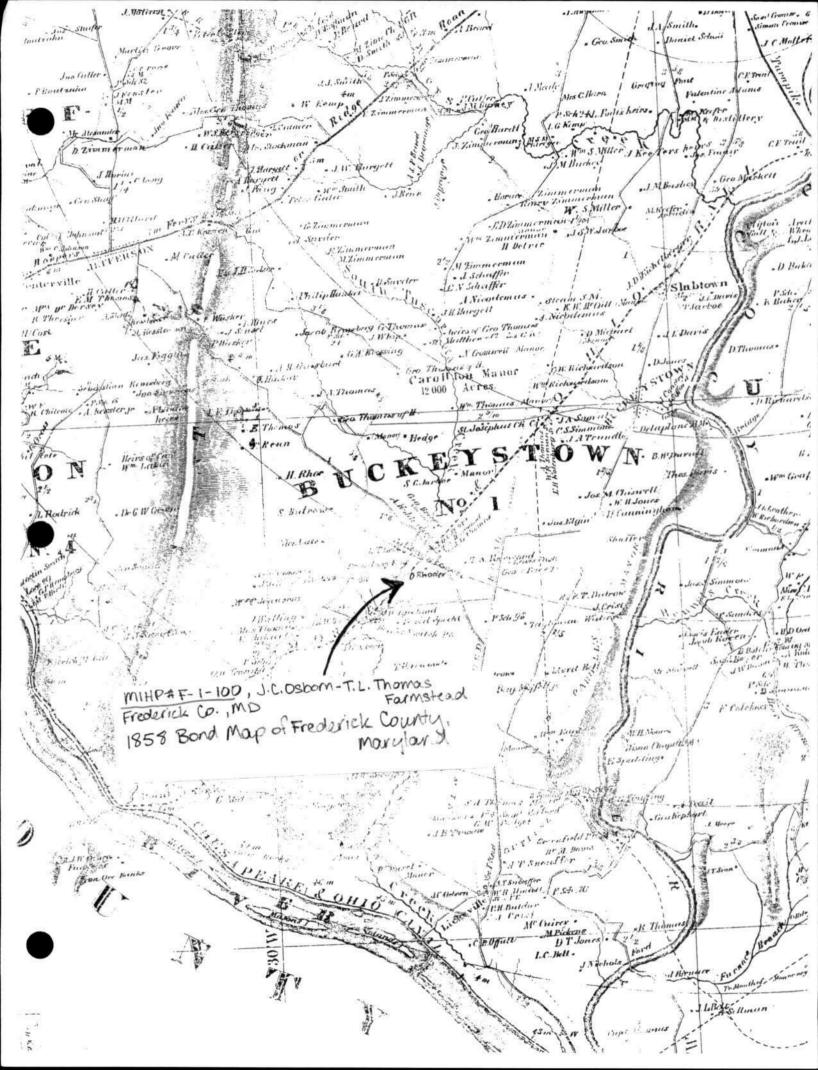


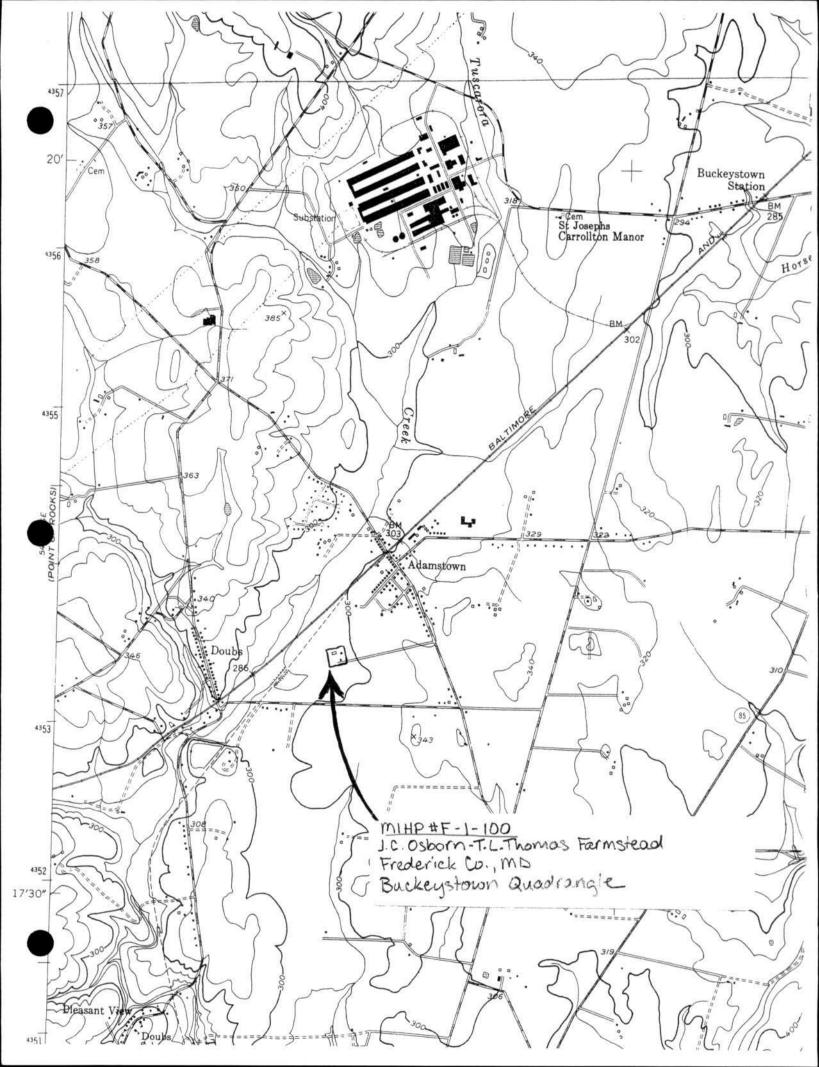














F-1-100 J.C. Osborn- T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hager town MO MISHIPO Building Complex, view NW



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adams foun, Frederick Co. MD 8/02 P. Reed, Hagerstun MD MOSHPO Building complex, view N 473



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn- T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 mantulle Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co, MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD Building complex, view N 3/23



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountuille Rd Adams town, Frederick (o. MO P. Reed, Hagerstown MD MOSHPO Main house, S elevation, view N



F-1-100 1. C. Osbourn - T. C. Thomas Formstead 5649 mountuille Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD MOSHPO Main house, S and E elevations, view NW

/23



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn- T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mount ville Rd Adamstown, Frederick MD Parla Reed, Hagerstown MD MD SHPO Main house, N elevation, view S

423



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD Main house + kitchen wing, N elevation, view NE



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountville Pd Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD MOSHPO Main house, wood lintel detail (w/ bathroom vent) Selevation



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountille Rd. Adomstown, Frederick Co. MO P. Reed, Hogerstown MD MOSHPO Main house + kitchen wing, W and S elevations, VIEW NE



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hoyerstown MD MD SHPO Main house, interior, view w from parlor to kitchen WING

19/23



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adams fown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hogerstown MD MOSHPO main house interior, enclosed stair door, view toward S wall



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 mountville Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD MDSHPO main house, interior door and molding



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 mountuille Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD Main house interior, view toward N wall sliding glass doors



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 mountiille Rd Adams town, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hogerstown MD main house, kitchen wing and wood shed. N and Welevations, view SE



F-1-100 1. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 mountville Rd. Adamstoun, Frederick (c. M) P. Reed, Hagerstown MD. MO SHPO wood shed interior, view toward N wall



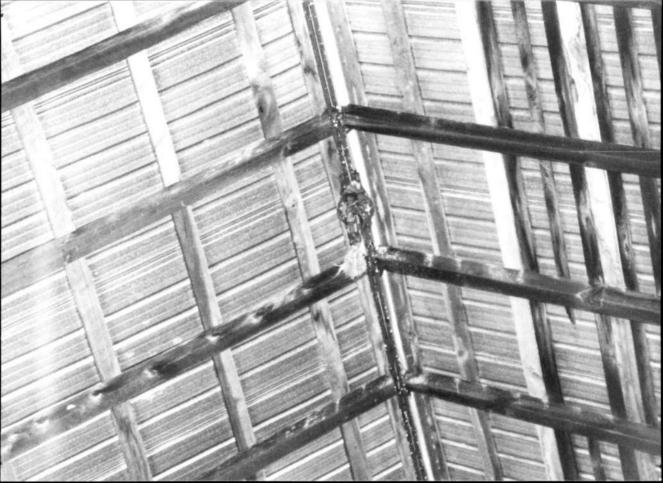
F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountaille Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstun MD MOSHPO Building complex, view W



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas farmstead 5649 Mountille Rd. Adamstoun, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD Barn, S and E elevations, view NW



F-1-100 J. C. Osborm - T. L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountville Rd Adamstown, Frederick Co, MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD Barn interior, view toward & wall



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn - 7.2. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountille Rd. Adamstoun, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerstown MD

Barn interior, rafter detail



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Furnstead 5649 mountville Rd Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD 8/02 P. Reed, Hagers town MD

Barn interior, lower stall area



F-1-100 J. C. Osborn - T.L. Thomas Formstead 5649 Mountille Rd. Adomstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Reed, Hagerskun MO Wagon shed/cornerib and corral, view SW

21/23



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn- T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adamstown, Frederick Co. MD P. Read, Hagerstown MD

Wagon shed/corncrib, view SE

22/23



F-1-100 J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead 5649 Mountville Rd. Adams town, Frederick Co. MD Pa Reed, Hogerstown MD Workshop, Wand Selevations, view NE 23/23

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name o					
	f Property	(indicate preferred	d name)		
historic	J.C. Osborn-	T.L. Thomas Farm (preferre	ed)		
other	Chuck Wade	e Sod Farm			
2. Locatio	n				
street and numb	er 5649 Mount	ville Rd.			not for publication
city, town	Adamstown	1		X	vicinity
county	Frederick				
3. Owner	of Propert	y (gives names and	mailing addresses of all	owners)	
name	Chuck Wade	e Landscaping, Inc.			
street and number	er 5649 Mount	ville Rd., P.O. Box 6		Telephone	301-662-0736
city, town	Adamstown		state MD	zip code	21710
4. Locatio	n of Legal	Description			
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Frederick County Courth	ouse liber 11	156 Folio	504
city, town	Frederick	tax map 10	35 tax parcel	tax II) number
5. Primary	Location	of Additional Da	ata		
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PLANTAGE PEN

MAY 9 2003

7. Description			Inventory No. F-1-100
Condition		+3	
		123	
excellent	Deteriorated		
X good	Ruins		
fair	Altered		
-			

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead, now known as the Chuck Wade Sod Farm, is a good representative collection of buildings showing the development of a grain farm through the latter half of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Only two of the seven buildings standing were constructed during the 1980s when the farm was converted to sod production. Interior changes to the house and lower level of the barn have impacted the buildings' integrity architecturally, however the well-maintained condition of all of the buildings is relatively unusual in the changing agricultural landscape of Frederick County. All of the buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the farm tract for housing. The farmstead is situated on a plain of nearly level land just to the southwest of Adamstown, within a triangle formed by the B&O Railroad, Mountville Road and Doubs Road. The surrounding farmland is devoted to production of sod, so the landscape is open, well-tended grassland. The house faces north and the barn south.

Description

Situated just southwest of the small town of Adamstown on the south side of Mountville Road, the 140-acre farm tract on which the Osborn-Thomas Farmstead stands consists entirely of the distinctively flat land associated with the former Carrollton Manor of southern Frederick County. The farmland is now used in the production of landscaping sod resulting in an unusually open landscape without the tree or fence-line field delineations more commonly associated with agricultural landscapes in the region.

Approached from Mountville Road on the northeast by a long gravel drive, the building complex is sited in the center of the farm tract, a tight group of seven buildings. The yard is landscaped with flowering plants, several shade trees and a small number of evergreen bushes. The farm buildings are painted a classic barn red while the house and office building are white. A small horse corral of white fence extends from the wagon shed, now used for miniature horse stalls.

The house is a two-story brick gable-end construction on stone foundation. A brick interior chimney rises from each gable end. The roof is covered with standing seam metal sheets and some replacement corrugated metal sheets. A corbelled brick cornice extends across both the south and north elevations. The south elevation is four bays wide, however the fenestration on the first floor has only three openings presenting a window/door/blank wall/window pattern. There is no evidence that a second door was removed from this wall. Although the driveway approach is to this side of the building, it appears that the south elevation is in fact the rear of the house. All windows and the door have wide wood lintels; the door has a three-light transom; the windows are one over one sash replacements. A concrete open porch surface extends across three bays; a steel bulkhead basement entrance extends below the forth (eastern-most) bay. The

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Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

north elevation is four bays with window/window/door/window fenestration on both the first and second floors, indicating that the façade probably originally included a two-story porch although no other evidence remains. All windows and doors have wide wood lintels. The upper story door has a three-light transom. The lower story door has been replaced with modern sliding patio glass doors and framed infill covered with siding. However, the presence of the wood lintel extending beyond the width of the wide opening indicates the possibility that this was a Greek Revival styled three-part entrance with sidelights which would have required the wider opening. This implies that the north elevation, facing toward Adamstown, was the formal front elevation of the house historically. All windows are replacement one over one sash. Both gable ends have a six over six light sash garret window.

On the west gable end is a two-bay, one-story frame kitchen wing. The kitchen's south elevation has a window/door fenestration, shaded by a cantilevered roof extension over an open concrete porch area. There is a brick exterior chimney on the west gable end and a small storage room addition with a window on the north elevation. The entire kitchen wing is covered with asbestos shingle siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets. A window in the west gable end, upper story has been boarded over.

The interior of the house and kitchen is covered with wood paneling and drop ceilings; all fireplaces have been enclosed. Exposed historic double beaded moldings can be found around several doors and windows. Cast iron box locks with ceramic knobs, c.1860s, remain on several interior doors. An enclosed winding stair with vertical board door is located near the center of the south wall in the area of the blank wall on the south elevation (explaining the lack of an opening on the exterior wall). The south elevation door is completely blocked by interior paneling. The second story was not observed.

Immediately west of the kitchen wing of the house is a light timber frame wood shed covered with asbestos shingle siding. The building is constructed using a mixture of hewn and sawn beams. It has a vertical board and batten door with wrought iron hinges and latch. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets.

Several hundred feet to the southwest of the house is the Pennsylvania bank barn. It is constructed on a limestone foundation framed with mortise and tenoned straight sawn beams with massive hewn floor beams, which extend over the cantilevered forebay. The cantilevered forebay is located within the symmetrical barn framing, typical of the standard Pennsylvania barn style of the 19th century. The western forebay end is closed with an extension of the stone foundation wall while the east end is supported with a post. According to the Ensminger barn morphology, this is a transitional form moving from closed to open forebay ends and falls within the middle of the 1790-1890 period. Four steel pole supports along the length of the forebay are a more recent addition. All of the stalls within the lower level of the barn have been removed, leaving a large open space. The beams are now supported with sawn summer beams with heavy square posts. The area does not appear to have been converted to dairy production.

Robert Ensminger. The Pennsylvania Barn. (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), pp. 67-72.

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The somewhat distinctive width of the barn is achieved with symmetrical extensions on both sides of each framing bent (see attached drawing). The original track and pulley system for lifting and transporting hay is still in place along the interior roof ridge. The siding is vertical boards, some with battens. Gable ends are pierced with plain arched louvered vents. On the south elevation above the forebay two plain arched louvered vents are located on either side of two large sliding doors. On the north side of the barn a banked ramp leads to the central sliding doors of the upper threshing floor. The roof is channeled metal sheets.

In the south yard between the house and barn is a sawn light timber framed wagon shed. The building has a central drive-through with a corncrib on each side. It is typical of the combination wagon shed/corncribs constructed throughout the second half of the 19th century. The open central area now houses stalls for miniature horses.

Just off the northwest corner of the wagon shed is a c.1920 cast stone (rock-faced concrete block) workshop. It is a one story gable-front building with large sliding panel doors which enclose the open central bay. The long east and west walls each have a row of five, twelve pane fixed-light windows, which are protected with horizontal iron bars on the exterior. The interior is a large open room with workbenches along the walls. The roof is sheet metal.

Southwest of the barn is a modern metal frame, two-bay truck garage. Directly south of the house, fronting onto the north side of the driveway, is a modern one-story pre-fabricated building used as the office for the Chuck Wade Sod Farm.

8. Significa	ance		Invento	ory No. F-1-100
Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justi	fy below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	X agriculture archeology X architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates	c. 1864-1930	Α	rchitect/Builder unknown	
Construction date	es c. 1864			
Evaluation for:				
	National Register	Mary	rland Register X	not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farm is a significant example of the development of the Carrollton Manor following its subdivision in the 1820s and 1830s. The 140-acre parcel on which the farmstead stands, originally consisting of 184 acres, was part of Manor Subdivision Lot. No. 10. It served as "arable" acreage until its purchase by John C. Osborn in 1864, when construction of the farmstead buildings began. Osborn's nephew, Thomas L. Thomas, with whom the farm was most closely associated, reportedly improved the farm throughout his forty-year occupation. Later owners have added only a few buildings. All of the farm buildings are slated for demolition prior to development of the land for housing.

Historic Context

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland initially owned much of the land, however many of the settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the mid west overtook local production in the later 19th century. The agricultural economy of the region gradually changed from emphasis on grain production to dairy farming and other alternatives such as canning vegetables, fruits, and animal stock.

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Resource History

The Carroll family was preeminent during Maryland's colonial and early national periods. They held a position of prestige and economic dominance. There were Protestant and Catholic branches of the family, both of which had sons with the name of Charles Carroll in succeeding generations. The Catholic Carrolls were descended from "Charles Carroll, The Settler," who came to Maryland from Ireland in 1688, and who died in 1720. His son was Charles Carroll of Annapolis. The next generation included another Charles Carroll, destined to be owner of Carrollton Manor and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Born in Annapolis in 1737, the younger Charles was sent to England for schooling. Upon His return to America in 1765, he was given the 12,000-acre Carrollton Manor in Frederick County by his father to serve as a source of income.

Charles Carroll of Carrollton, as he was known to distinguish himself from his father, did not live on his Frederick County plantation, but rather leased the land as a number of "manor farms," collecting the annual rents for income. In 1821, in his 84th year, Charles Carroll of Carrollton began to break-up the Manor, dividing it into large lots of several hundred acres each and conveying them to his children. The February 1821 division, described in Frederick County Land Record J.S. 17, pages 103-106, dated 24 December 1821, included Elizabeth Caton and Louisa Catherine Hervey, both living in Great Britain (Lots One and Two); Catherine and husband Robert Goodloe Harper (Lots Six, Eight, Eleven, and Twelve), and Mary Anne and Robert Patterson (Lot Nine plus 600 acres), all of Baltimore; Emily and John McTavish of Montreal (Lot Five); Mary Sophia and Richard H. Bayard of Philadelphia (Lot Ten); and Elizabeth Chew Carroll (represented by trustees), Harriet Carroll, and Louisa Catherine Carroll (Lots Seven, Three, and Four), all described as daughters of Charles Carroll, Junior.

Mary Sophia (Carroll) and her husband Richard H. Bayard, who received Lot Ten "of the Grand Division of the said Carrollton Manor," apparently subdivided their substantial acreage, eventually selling farm-size (100-200 acres) parcels as well as B & O Railroad right-of-way. In 1853, Daniel Rhoades (Rhodes) purchased a 184-acre tract "of Arable land," part of Carrollton Manor Lot Ten. The parcel adjoined the B & O Railroad and the farm of William H. Hoffman on the northwest, the Trap Road (now Mountville Road) on the northeast, and the farm of David Sprecht on the south (now bordered by Doubs Road). The parcel, in the form of a triangle, included the south end of Adamstown, although not mentioned as such in the deed. Williams

Ann C. Vandevanter. *Anywhere So Long As There Be Freedom*. (Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1975), pp. 48-49; describes the Manor as having 3,900 acres under cultivation by as many as 63 tenants c.1775 with an annual rent income of £565. She also cites Richard Caton's "A Brief Statement of Facts in the Management of the Late Mr. Carroll of Carrollton's Moneyed Estate," 1832, which stated an income of \$12,000 from the farms of the Manor in 1812 and \$18,000 in 1832.

³ Frederick Co. Land Record. Deed Book E.S. 3. page 79. Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick. MD.

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Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

and McKinsey, writing in 1910, noted that Adamstown, named for Adam Kohlenberg, was established around 1840 (during the Bayard ownership of the land), and that Daniel Rhodes was one of the early settlers there. The 1858 Bond Map of Frederick County showed the "D. Rhodes" triangular farm adjoining the small village of Adamstown (see attached copy). With his sale of the farm tract in 1864, Rhodes appears to have decided to focus his energy on the Adamstown development. In his deed to John C. Osborn, Daniel reserved a 30-acre parcel from the 184-acre farm adjoining the southeast side of the B & O Railroad and the "road leading from Greenfield Mills to Jefferson."

John C. Osborn (Osborne) owned several other properties in the Buckeystown District, but apparently purchased the subject farmland to build a home farm for his family, which included his orphaned nephew Thomas L. Thomas.⁶ The 1873 Atlas Map of Frederick County showed the location of the Osborn "Res." (residence) on the subject farm (see attached copy). According to Williams' *History of Frederick County*, Thomas L. Thomas took up farming at this location previous to his marriage in 1874 and subsequently "put up a convenient two-story, brick dwelling, a bank barn, and all the necessary buildings." Although this correctly described the farmstead, clearly the buildings were constructed prior to 1874 as evidenced by the 1873 map.

Despite Williams and McKinsey's glowing view in 1910 of the T. L. Thomas farm as "one of the valuable farms of the district," by 1914, owner of record Mary C. Thomas, T. L. Thomas' wife, had defaulted on the farm's mortgage and it was sold through trustees in 1916 to Eugene Sponseller. The tract was in fact a tenant farm by that time, the purchase price of \$118.50 per acre including "the landlord's ½ interest in the crop of wheat now on said farm." Sponseller sold the farm two weeks later to Charles and Mary Joy, who in turn sold it one year later to William and Edith Renn. The Renn family retained the farm until 1980, more than sixty years, when it was sold to Chuck Wade Landscaping, Inc. The landscaping company converted the farm to sod production.

⁴ T.J.C. Williams and Folger McKinsey. *History of Frederick County, Maryland*, (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, reprint), Vol. 1, p. 321.

Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book J.W.L.C. 2, page 193. The deed refers to the road in the first description of the whole 184-acre tract as "the road leading from the town of Jefferson to Nowlands [sic] Ferry, commonly called the Trap Road," and in the reserved 30-acre parcel as "the public road from Greenfield Mills to Jefferson," however, both appear to be the same road.

⁶ Williams and McKinsey, p. 1349. Williams noted Thomas' birth in 1848, making him 16 at the time of Osborn's purchase of the farm.

Ibid.

Williams and McKinsey, p. 1349; Frederick Co. Land Records, Deed Book WIP 6, page 673 (Thomas L. Thomas to Mary C. Thomas), and Deed Book HWB 308, page 459 (Thomas trustees to John H. Allnutt); this deed noted the sale of several lots between the years 1893 and 1913 which reduced the actual acreage of the farm to 143 acres.

Frederick Co. Land Record, Deed Book 316, page 218.

¹⁰ Frederick Co. Land Records. Deed Book 316, page 277 (Sponseller to Joy), and Deed Book 320, page 451 (Joy to Renn).

¹¹ Frederick Co. Land Records, Deed Book 1110, page 885 (Renn to Wade). Deed Book 1110, page 888 (mortgage), and 1156, page 504 (equity court reconveyance, Renn to Wade).

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name J.C. Osborn-T.L. Thomas Farmstead Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

Resource Evaluation

Four farmstead buildings remain from the Osborn/Thomas construction period, including the house, woodshed, wagon shed/corn crib, and barn. Of these the house has had the most dramatic changes made, primarily to the interior wall treatments, windows, and doors. The barn is in remarkably good condition; only the stalls in the lower level have been removed. It appears that the barn was never converted to dairy production. Although Williams and McKinsey, writing in 1910, noted that the farm buildings were constructed by Thomas L. Thomas c. 1874, presence of the residence noted on the 1873 Atlas map and moldings and window treatments on the house indicate the construction date was probably closer to the 1864 purchase of the tract by John C. Osborn.

A cast stone workshop building, probably constructed c.1920, is also considered contributing to the historic development of the farm. This building was probably constructed by the Renn family and is associated with the growing importance of farm machinery through the early 20th century.

Two non-contributing buildings, a truck garage and an office building, were added after the 1980 purchase by the Chuck Wade Landscaping Company.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. F-1-100

"Carrollton Manor," National Register documentation, Paula S. Reed & Assoc., 1996.

"E.D. Zimmerman 'Manor' Property," #F-1-216, MIHP documentation, Paula S. Reed & Assoc., 1996.

Frederick County Land Records, Frederick Co. Courthouse, Frederick, MD.

Vandevanter, Ann C. Anywhere So Long As There Be Freedom. Baltimore, MD: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1975.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Baltimore, MD: Regional Publishing Co., 1967.

1858. Bond Map of Frederick County, Maryland. Reproduction by Frederick Co. Historical Society, Frederick, MD.

1873, Titus Atlas Map of Frederick County, Maryland. Maryland Room. C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, MD.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	139.9 acres			
Acreage of historical setting	Approximately 5 acres			
Quadrangle name	Buckeystown	Quadrangle scale	1:24,000	

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary begins at a point on the farmstead driveway SE of the SE corner of the house, then runs N/NW to a point just beyond the NE corner of the house, then runs SW to a point just beyond the NW corner of the barn, then runs SE to the SW corner of the truck garage, then following the S wall of the truck garage to the beginning point in the driveway.

The boundary includes the farmstead buildings, approximately 5 acres, excluding the remaining 135 acres of farmland now converted to sod production and no longer representative of grain farming (all field delineations have been obliterated).

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD., Architectural Historian; Edie Wa	allace. Historian
organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc.	date 8/12/02
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street	telephone 301-739-2070
city or town Hagerstown	state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032-2023

410-514-7600

F-1-100

Osborn-Thomas Farmstead

June 25, 2004

Update: Owner reports that all outbuildings have been removed or demolished. Last remaining outbuilding is a concrete block dairy, identified as a workshop on the site sketch plan prepared with the Inventory form. The building's last use was storage. Demolition permit application dated June 22, 1004. Permit also mentions second building, the former office building identified as a prefabricated structure in the inventory form. This building has already been removed.

Janet Davis Historic Preservation Planner 301-696-2958 jdavis@fredco-md.net

